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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/697,735	10/29/2003	Bradford Scott Baron	9397	7725

27752 7590 09/28/2005

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
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EXAMINER

GRAVINI, STEPHEN MICHAEL

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3749

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

88

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/697,735

Applicant(s)

BARON ET AL.

Examiner

Stephen Gravini

Art Unit

3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) 1-50 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 20050616 et al.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-19, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 595.
- II. Claims 20-22, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 600.
- III. Claims 23-27, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 602.
- IV. Claims 28-29, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 603.
- V. Claims 30-50, drawn to a subcombination apparatus, classified in class 34, subclass 606.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions of group I and groups II-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group I has separate utility such as containing the independently claimed feature of a control circuit that initiates spraying of said benefit composition, wherein said control circuit prevents said benefit composition from being sprayed when said closure structure

sensor indicates that said closure structure is not in said closed position, which is not a limitation in any of the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group II and groups I & III-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group II has separate utility such as containing the independently claimed feature of a control circuit that initiates spraying of said benefit composition, wherein said control circuit prevents said benefit composition from being sprayed when said motion sensor indicates that said movable chamber is not in motion, which is not a limitation in any of the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group III and groups I-II & IV-V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group III has separate utility such as containing the independently claimed feature of a control circuit configured to initiate a first spraying interval of said spraying event and a second spraying interval of said spraying event, such that said first spraying interval and said second spraying interval are separated in time, which is not a limitation in any of the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group IV and groups I-III & V are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group IV has separate utility such as containing the independently claimed feature of

Art Unit: 3749

a control circuit configured to increase a duty cycle of said pulse-width modulated variable output signal as a battery produced output voltage decreases, thereby causing a pump apparatus to provide a substantially constant volume of said benefit composition to said nozzle even though said battery has become partially discharged such that it cannot maintain its rated output voltage, which is not a limitation in any of the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Inventions of group V and groups I-IV are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention of group V has separate utility such as containing the independently claimed feature of a control circuit that initiates spraying of said benefit composition, wherein said control circuit prevents said benefit composition from being sprayed when said at least one safety sensor indicates that a predetermined condition exists, which is not a limitation in any of the other independently claimed inventions. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because the restriction requirement is considered complex and examiner knows from past experience that an election will not be made by telephone, this restriction requirement is considered proper under MPEP 812.01.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Gravini whose telephone number is 571 272 4875. The examiner can normally be reached on normal weekday business hours (east coast time).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica S. Carter can be reached on 571 272 4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SMG
September 19, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Gravini". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.